

HABITAT PROTECTION PROJECTS



The Snoqualmie Watershed contains some of the healthiest remaining habitat and salmon stocks in Puget Sound. To safeguard these natural resources, salmon conservation strategies place a high priority on protecting healthy habitat areas rather than trying to recreate them later. Habitat protection priorities listed in the following projects have been driven by several planning efforts including: Waterways 2000, the Snohomish Basin Salmon Conservation Plan and the Cascade Agenda. In 1995, King County launched Waterways 2000, a pilot effort to identify and protect a connected network of high quality habitat in the healthiest basins in the county. Of the sixteen basins that met the criteria established by the science panel, eleven of them are in the Snoqualmie/Skykomish watershed. Six target basins were then selected from the list for inclusion in the acquisition phase of the Waterways 2000 program. Target basins in the Snoqualmie Watershed included Griffin Creek, Patterson Creek, and the Middle Fork Snoqualmie. Working within the basins selected by the Waterways 2000 program, a panel of ecologists developed criteria for identifying stream or river reaches that are high priority for protection efforts via purchase, conservation easements, and tax incentives. Five main criteria were used to assess each of the Waterways basins:

- Concentrated salmonid rearing and spawning areas.
- Areas of biotic/habitat richness, including aquatic species abundance and number of miles accessible to fish.
- Areas adjacent to or with intact connections to

other habitats, especially in riparian and upland forests and wetlands.

- Forested (coniferous or mixed) riparian zones at least 300 feet in width and length, without intrusion of roads or buildings.
- Process areas such as sources of water supply, gravels, and woody debris.

The 2005 Snohomish Basin Salmon Conservation Plan complemented the Waterways 2000 priorities. In addition to protection priorities, the Plan looked at protection projects with the purpose of future restoration opportunities. These restoration priority areas (described in the Snoqualmie Implementation Sequence) provided criteria based on important spawning and rearing areas for Chinook and Coho salmon.

The Cascade Agenda is a 100-year program to conserve nearly 1.3 million acres of land in Western Washington. This allows groups like the Cascade Land Conservancy to assess threats to ecosystems, identify regional conservation opportunities, and conserve and steward these important lands. The Cities of Carnation, Duvall, North Bend and Snoqualmie have also utilized a variety of methods to assess important protection measures in their jurisdictions.

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Acquisitions Map - front

Acquisitions Map - back

City of Snoqualmie Natural Area Acquisitions

DESCRIPTION:

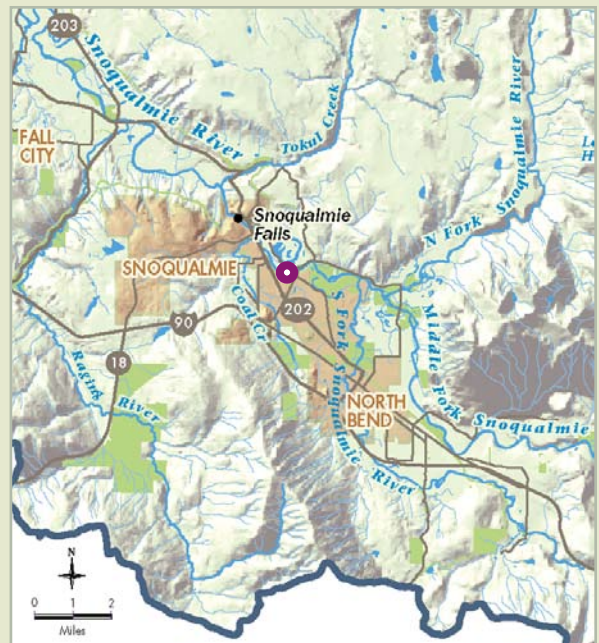
The focus of this project is to acquire property along the Snoqualmie River for shoreline, floodplain and native habitat protection. The properties identified along the bank of the Snoqualmie River are zoned Open Space to be preserved in a natural undeveloped state for a passive park. The properties identified for open space will enhance a viable wildlife corridor which link habitat areas together and encourage movement of animal species along the Snoqualmie River. Although direct salmon habitat can not be provided as the banks are located upstream from Snoqualmie Falls, the additional shading provided from the native vegetation coupled with installing stable vegetation to minimize silt and sedimentation from bank erosion will help improve the water quality for downstream salmon habitat.

STATUS:

The project has strong potential for improving approximately 3,000 lineal feet of the upper Snoqualmie as well as for strengthening public awareness by engaging the local community in a future restoration effort.

CONTACT:

Lauren Hollenbeck, City of Snoqualmie
425-888-5337



Project Type: Acquisition

Location: Snoqualmie, WA

Parcels: 49 **Acres:** Approx. 20

Landowners: 31

Cost: Unknown

Funding Status: None at this time

Fall City Natural Area Acquisitions



Project Type: Acquisition

Location: Near Fall City, WA

Parcels: 5 **Acres:** 68

Landowners: 4

Cost: \$1,500,000

Funding Status: The county presently has \$200,000 to dedicate to this project. No other grants and funding sources are pending.

DESCRIPTION:

The primary focus of this project is to acquire habitat along the Snoqualmie River just downstream of the confluence with the Raging River. This reach of the Snoqualmie River provides substantial spawning habitat for Chinook salmon and other salmonid species. High quality spawning gravel coming from the Raging River is deposited in this reach. Historically, the Snoqualmie migrated in response to the deposition of sediment. Presently, levees prevent the river channel from moving. This project seeks to acquire enough area to allow a levee setback project that would encourage the river to resume the natural process of migration in response to sediment deposition.

STATUS:

The County has exhausted all present opportunities to work with willing sellers. The County is committed to a policy of working cooperatively with willing partners. Until conditions and circumstances change, the project will be on hold.

CONTACT:

Kirk Anderson
Snoqualmie Basin Steward, King County
206-296-1948

Lower Tolt River Acquisition

DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this project is to permanently protect the natural buffer between the City of Carnation and the Tolt River through acquisition of 6.7 acres, much of which is located in the 100 year floodway. The Tolt River floodway has been shown by Best Available Science to protect the spawning habitat for Chinook salmon. Placing this privately owned parcel in public ownership would prevent the construction of homes near the floodway and preserve natural river corridor conditions in perpetuity. The site is located just upstream of the Snoqualmie Valley Trail bridge on the north side of the Tolt River and connects to Tolt MacDonald Park via the Trail. It is also close to an 18 acre parcel of preserved habitat owned by the City of Seattle as well as 30 acres of county owned Ecological Lands. The acquisition of this site would protect scenic and habitat qualities and contribute to a network of open space along the Tolt River for wildlife habitat and passive recreation.

STATUS:

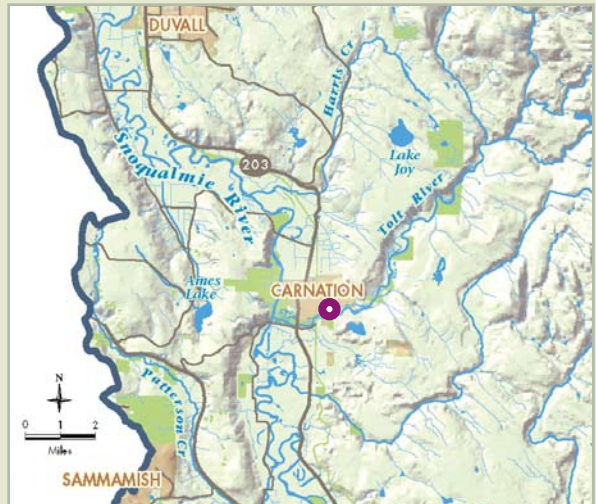
The site is located in a Focus Area for Chinook salmon recovery actions in WRIA 7. The WRIA 7 plan recommends that governments take actions to protect and restore the river corridor and the natural processes that create and maintain habitat for aquatic species. This project serves to preserve in perpetuity part of the lower Tolt River corridor.

CONTACT:

Linda Scott, City of Carnation
425-333-4192

PARTNERS:

King County



Project Type: Acquisition

Location: Carnation, WA

Landowner: Private landowners

Cost: \$286,000

Funding Status: The City of Carnation has secured \$236,000 (with 2002 funding from King Conservation District and Conservation Futures) and needs \$50,000 to move forward on this acquisition.

Patterson Creek – Stevlingson Acquisition



Project Type: Acquisition

Location: Near Sammamish, WA

Parcels: 1 **Acres:** 10

Landowners: 1

Cost: \$425,000

Funding Status: The county presently has no funding to dedicate to this project. No other grants and funding sources are pending.

DESCRIPTION:

The primary focus of this project is to acquire the property that is impacted by alluvial fan development where the headwater stream of Patterson Creek meets the lowland floodplain. There is one house on the site. The accumulation of gravel on the property results in frequent inundation of the sole access road to the house. The site would be a good location for restoration. Coho salmon are likely to spawn in the area in large numbers if the site could be managed primarily for its habitat benefits. Productivity (for Coho salmon) of Patterson Creek is more dependent upon restoration and protection of spawning habitat than rearing habitat. The system has ample rearing habitat in the long, slow-flowing wetland reaches from river mile 8 to the Snoqualmie River.

STATUS:

This project is one of the priority projects identified in the Patterson Creek Basin Rapid Rural Reconnaissance Report (2004). The Report ranked this acquisition 4th out of nine recommended acquisition projects.

CONTACT:

Kirk Anderson
Snoqualmie Basin Steward, King County
206-296-1948

Patterson Creek – State DNR Land Acquisition

DESCRIPTION:

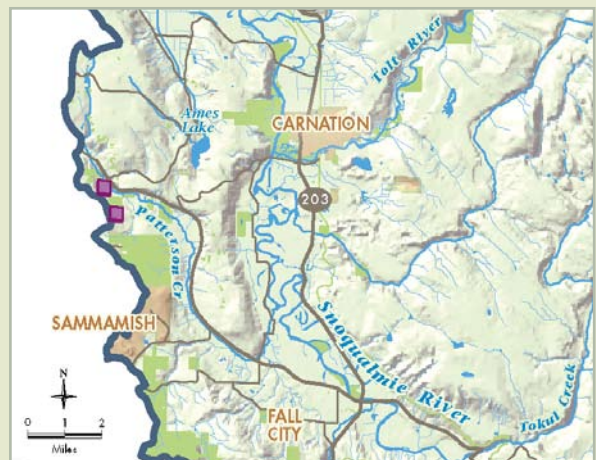
The primary focus of this project is to acquire land owned by the State Department of Natural Resources. The state owns four forty-acre parcels which are the headwaters of Patterson Creek Tributary 0383. The parcels are difficult for the state to manage for timber values due to the close proximity to densely populated areas. The state generally surpluses these lands. About half of the area lies within the City of Sammamish boundaries. The other half drains to Patterson Creek. The 2004 Patterson Creek Rapid Rural Reconnaissance identified loss of forest cover as an important factor to address for the long term health of the watershed. The State lands were identified as important forested areas to protect. This acquisition would provide the most direct protection to Tributary 0383, which is a good spawning stream and has been the focus of past acquisition activity by the county.

STATUS:

This project is one of the priority projects identified in the Patterson Creek Basin Rapid Rural Reconnaissance Report (2004). The Report ranked this acquisition 7th out of nine recommended acquisition projects.

CONTACT:

Kirk Anderson
Snoqualmie Basin Steward, King County
206-296-1948



Project Type: Acquisition

Location: Near Sammamish, WA

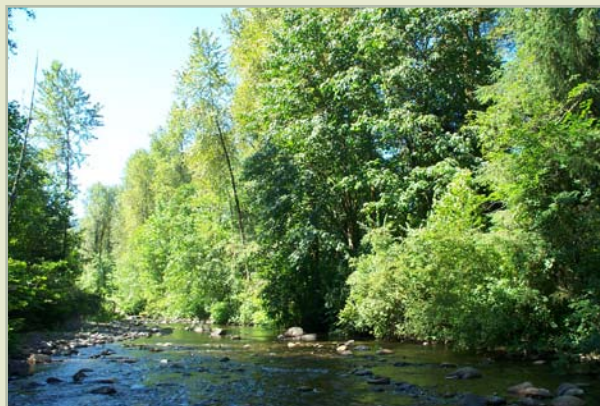
Parcels: 4 **Acres:** 160

Landowners: 1

Cost: \$2,500,000

Funding Status: The county presently has no funding to dedicate to this project. No other grants and funding sources are pending.

Raging River-Preston Reach Acquisition



Project Type: Acquisition

Location: Near Preston, WA

Parcels: 1 **Acres:** 10

Landowners: 1

Cost: \$425,000

Funding Status: The county presently has no funding dedicated to this project. Two grants are pending.

DESCRIPTION:

This project adds to existing county ownership along the Raging River between Preston and Fall City. The Raging River flows through a well forested riparian corridor from Preston to Fall City. The county has acquired 60 acres (4700 feet of riparian corridor) in that reach in the past ten years to protect the riparian habitat and the ecological functions it provides. This project would expand an existing 12-acre site (1100 feet of riparian habitat) to a 22-acre site (2150 feet of riparian corridor).

The Raging River provides spawning habitat for Chinook salmon, pink salmon, and steelhead trout in this reach. Coho and chum salmon use side channels and floodplain tributaries. Acquiring open floodplain area maintains the river's ability to migrate and establish both mainstem and floodplain habitat types.

STATUS:

This project has received some funding support. The County anticipates initiating negotiations with property owners in the Spring of 2006.

CONTACT:

Kirk Anderson
Snoqualmie Basin Steward, King County
206-296-1948

Snoqualmie River - Gonnerson Levee Acquisition

DESCRIPTION:

The primary focus of this project is to acquire habitat along the Snoqualmie River in a location that would allow the county to remove a levee/revetment feature and allow the river to resume a natural rate of channel migration in a non-depositional environment. The goal is to allow the river to create off-channel habitat. This site provides a good opportunity to purchase a peninsula of land that is a potential site of a channel avulsion. An avulsion would leave behind an oxbow channel that would provide off-channel habitat. The Snohomish River Basin Salmon Conservation Plan calls for increasing off-channel habitat area in mainstem river systems as a particularly important restoration action for reaching recovery goals for Chinook salmon.

STATUS:

This project is still in the conceptual phase. The County is determining what ownership is needed to accomplish the habitat objectives for the site. This project is an example of an effort to balance restoration and protection of habitat with protection of agricultural values and viability in the Snoqualmie Valley.

CONTACT:

Kirk Anderson
Snoqualmie Basin Steward, King County
206-296-1948



Project Type: Acquisition

Location: Near Fall City, WA

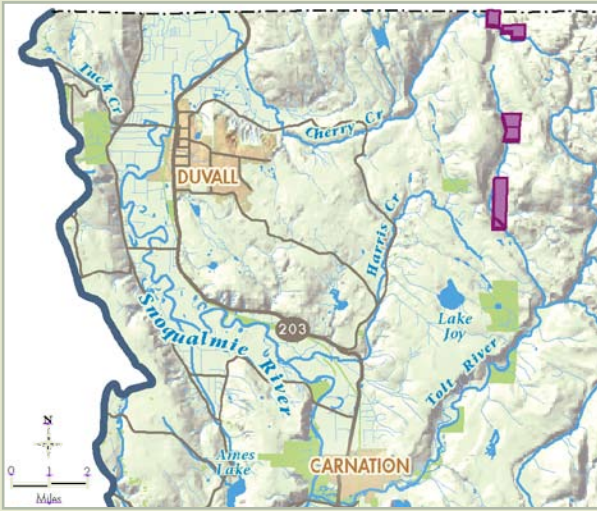
Parcels: 2 **Acres:** 12

Landowners: 1

Cost: \$250,000

Funding Status: The county presently has no funding to dedicate to this project. No other grants and funding sources are pending.

Stossel Creek Acquisitions



Project Type: Acquisition

Location: Near Duvall, WA

Parcels: 15 **Acres:** 346

Landowners: 6

Cost: \$3,500,000

Funding Status: The county presently has \$150,000 to dedicate to this project. Several other grants and funding sources are pending.

DESCRIPTION:

The primary focus of this project is to protect the riparian area along Stossel Creek and its associated wetlands. Stossel Creek provides high quality habitat for coho salmon and other aquatic species. The freshwater mussel population in the creek is very healthy. Completion of this project would also create a large contiguous area of publicly owned land. The target parcels are completely surrounded by the State-owned Marckworth Forest, which covers approximately 11,000 acres. The project would provide the State with greater flexibility in managing the land and allow the county to close a public road that impacts water quality.

STATUS:

One interested landowner at present. Project partners are looking for funding to implement the project.

CONTACT:

Kirk Anderson
Snoqualmie Basin Steward, King County
206-296-1948

Tolt River Natural Area Acquisitions

DESCRIPTION:

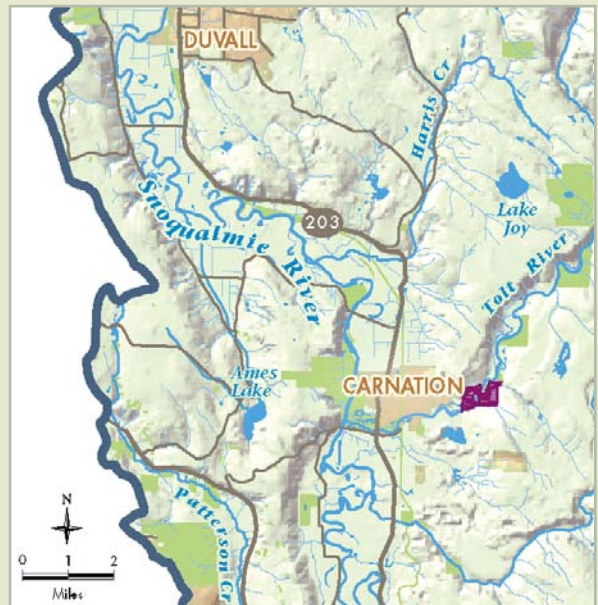
This project will protect 53 acres of habitat along the Tolt River at RM 2.5. The county already owns about 54 acres in the reach. The additional 53 acres will provide the ability to manage the reach as an ecological unit. One of the priority actions for the reach is reconnection of floodplain area (see project description entitled Tolt River Natural Area Floodplain Reconnection). Implementation of that action is contingent upon completing some of the acquisitions identified in this project. The Tolt is one of the high priority protection/restoration basins within WRIA 07. 20% of the Snoqualmie component of the Snohomish Fall Chinook stock spawns in the Tolt River. Most of that spawning takes place in the lower 6 miles of the Tolt. The basin plan lists protection of the floodplain, riparian area, off-channel habitat and channel migration as top priority actions for recovery. These actions enable the river to develop and maintain high quality habitat for spawning and rearing.

STATUS:

The County has prioritized the parcels in the reach. As funding is available, we will acquire properties according to the level of priority and the willingness of the property owner to sell.

CONTACT:

Kirk Anderson
Snoqualmie Basin Steward, King County
206-296-1948



Project Type: Acquisition

Location: Near Carnation, WA

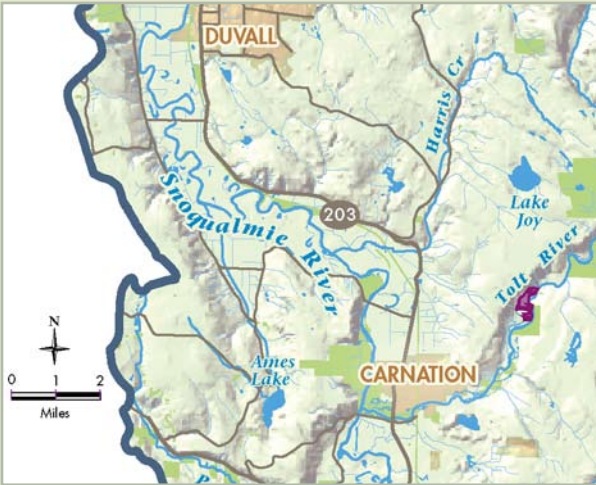
Parcels: 12 **Acres:** 53.5

Landowners: 9

Cost: \$2,500,000

Funding Status: The county presently has \$35,000 to dedicate to this project. Several other grants and funding sources are pending.

Tolt River – San Souci Acquisitions



Project Type: Acquisition

Location Near Carnation, WA

Parcels: 37 **Acres:** 41

Landowners: 22

Cost: \$4,000,000

Funding Status: The county presently has \$200,000 to dedicate to this project. Several other grants and funding sources are pending.

DESCRIPTION:

This project will protect 41 acres of habitat along the Tolt River at RM 4.5. The Tolt is one of the high priority protection/restoration basins within WRIA 7. Twenty percent of the Snoqualmie component of the Snohomish Fall Chinook stock spawns in the Tolt River. Most of that spawning takes place in the lower 6 miles of the Tolt. The basin plan lists protection of the floodplain, riparian area, off-channel habitat and channel migration as top priority actions for recovery. These actions enable the river to develop and maintain high quality habitat for spawning and rearing. Continuous levees from RM 1.7 to the mouth and intermittent levees as high as RM 3 limit the development of quality habitat in much of the lower Tolt, increasing the significance of the San Souci area.

The acquisition would include 3400 feet of river frontage. The floodplain area in question hosts two floodplain channels providing 5000 feet of off-channel habitat. The floodplain is forested with a mix of mature coniferous and deciduous species. The project is also a high priority project for the Flood Hazard Reduction program. A number of homes are located in the channel migration hazard area and are likely to experience flood damage in a significant flooding event.

STATUS:

The County has approached 5 landowners at this time and is awaiting their response. We could own up to 12 parcels covering 20.6 acres by summer 2006.

CONTACT:

Kirk Anderson
Snoqualmie Basin Steward, King County
206-296-1948